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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1 1. (Previously Amended) A method for alerting a
2 calling party of a delay before an incoming call will be answered
3 by a user of a called telecommunication terminal, comprising
4 the steps of:

5 answering the incoming call by the telecommunication
6 terminal in response to an input from the user when the
7 telecommunication terminal is not engaged in another call;

8 muting an audio path of the answered call from
9 communication with the user;

10 receiving a time specifying the delay from the user
11 after the incoming call is received;

12 inserting the time into a predefined message; and
13 transmitting the predefined message that is selected

14 by the user to the calling party.

1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprises
2 the step of maintaining the incoming call from the calling party
3 with the audio path muted to the user; and
4 allowing audio communication by the user with calling
5 party in response to another input from the user.

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1 3. (Previously Amended) A method for alerting a
2 calling party of a delay before an incoming call will be answered
3 by a user of a called telecommunication terminal, comprising
4 the steps of:

5 answering the incoming call by the telecommunication
6 terminal in response to an input from the user when the
7 telecommunication terminal is not engaged in another call;

8 muting an audio path of the answered call from
9 communication with the user;

10 transmitting a message that is selected by the user to
11 the calling party; and

12 terminating the incoming call after transmission of the
13 message.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the
2 message is an audio message and the audio message is
3 transmitted via the audio path to the calling party.

1 5. (Canceled)

1 6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1
2 wherein the step of inserting comprises converting the time to
3 audio information for insertion into the predefined message.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprises
2 the step of recording the predefined message.

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1 8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the
2 message is a text message.

1 9. (Canceled)

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the
2 transmission of the text message is via a text messaging link.

1 11. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8
2 further comprises the step of entering the predefined message.

1 12. (Currently Amended) A method for alerting a
2 calling party of a delay before an incoming call will be answered
3 by a user of a called wireless handset, comprising the steps of:
4 answering the incoming call by the wireless handset in
5 response to ~~one of at least an input from the user or a~~
6 predefined amount of movement of the wireless handset when
7 the telecommunication terminal is not engaged in another call;
8 muting an audio path of the answered call from
9 communication with the user; and
10 transmitting a message that is selected by the user to
11 the calling party.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further
2 comprises the step of maintaining the incoming call from the
3 calling party with the audio path muted to the user; and

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4 allowing audio communication by the user with calling
5 party in response to another input from the user.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 12 further
2 comprises the step of terminating the incoming call after
3 transmission of the message.

1 15. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the
2 message is an audio message and the audio message is
3 transmitted via the audio path to the calling party.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 15 further
2 comprises the steps of receiving a time specifying the delay;
3 and
4 inserting the time into a predefined message.

1 17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the
2 step of inserting comprises converting the time to audio
3 information for insertion into the predefined message.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 17 further
2 comprises the step of recording the predefined message.

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the
2 message is a text message.

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1 20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further
2 comprises the steps of receiving a time specifying the delay;
3 and
4 inserting the time into a predefined message.

1 21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the
2 transmission of the text message is via a text messaging link.

1 22. (Original) The method of claim 20 further
2 comprises the step of entering the predefined message.

1 23. (Previously Amended) A method for alerting a
2 calling party of a delay before an incoming call will be answered
3 by a user of a called telecommunication terminal, comprising
4 the steps of:

5 receiving a time specifying the delay from the user
6 after the incoming call is received;
7 transmitting a message including the time to a
8 wireless switching system in response to the incoming call by
9 the telecommunication terminal in response to an input from the
10 user when the telecommunication terminal is not engaged in
11 another call;
12 inserting the time into a predefined message that is
13 selected by the user to the calling party by the wireless
14 switching system;

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15 transmitting by the wireless switching system the
16 predefined message to the calling party; and
17 placing the incoming call on hold by the wireless
18 switching system.

1 24. (Original) The method of claim 23 further
2 comprises the step of taking the incoming call off of hold and
3 establishing audio communication between the user and calling
4 party in response to another input from the user.

1 25. (Previously Amended) A method for alerting a
2 calling party of a delay before an incoming call will be answered
3 by a user of a called telecommunication terminal, comprising
4 the steps of:

5 transmitting a message to a wireless switching system
6 in response to the incoming call by the telecommunication
7 terminal in response to an input from the user when the
8 telecommunication terminal is not engaged in another call;
9 transmitting by the wireless switching system a
10 message to the calling party;
11 placing the incoming call on hold by the wireless
12 switching system; and
13 terminating the incoming call after transmission of the
14 message.

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1 **26. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the**
2 **message is an audio message and the audio message is**
3 **transmitted via a voice messaging system.**

1 **27. (Canceled)**

1 **28. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 23**
2 **wherein the step of inserting comprises converting the time to**
3 **audio information for insertion into the predefined message.**

1 **29. (Original) The method of claim 28 further**
2 **comprises the step of recording the predefined message by the**
3 **user.**

1 **30. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the**
2 **message is a text message.**

1 **31. (Canceled)**

1 **32. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the**
2 **transmission of the text message is via a text messaging link.**

1 **33. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 30**
2 **further comprises the step of entering the predefined message.**

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1 34. (Currently Amended) A processor-readable
2 medium for alerting a calling party of a delay before an
3 incoming call will be answered by a user of a called wireless
4 handset, comprising processor-executable instructions
5 configured for:

6 answering the incoming call by the wireless handset in
7 response to ~~one of at least an input from the user or a~~
8 predefined amount of movement of the wireless handset when
9 the telecommunication terminal is not engaged in another call;
10 muting an audio path of the answered call from
11 communication with the user; and
12 transmitting a message that is selected by the user to
13 the calling party.

1 35. (Original) The processor-readable medium of
2 claim 34 further comprises maintaining the incoming call from
3 the calling party with the audio path muted to the user; and
4 allowing audio communication by the user with calling
5 party in response to another input from the user.

1 36. (Original) The processor-readable medium of
2 claim 34 further comprises terminating the incoming call after
3 transmission of the message.

1 37. (Original) The processor-readable medium of
2 claim 34 wherein the message is an audio message and the

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3 audio message is transmitted via the audio path to the calling
4 party.

1 38. (Original) The processor-readable medium of
2 claim 37 further comprises receiving a time specifying the
3 delay; and
4 inserting the time into a predefined message.

1 39. (Original) The processor-readable medium of
2 claim 38 wherein the inserting comprises converting the time to
3 audio information for insertion into the predefined message.

1 40. (Original) The processor-readable medium of
2 claim 39 further comprises recording the predefined message.

1 41. (Original) The processor-readable medium of
2 claim 34 wherein the message is a text message.

1 42. (Original) The processor-readable medium of
2 claim 41 further comprises receiving a time specifying the
3 delay; and
4 inserting the time into a predefined message.

1 43. (Original) The processor-readable medium of
2 claim 41 wherein the transmission of the text message is via a
3 text messaging link.

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1 **44. (Original) The processor-readable medium of**
2 **claim 42 further comprises entering the predefined message.**

1 **45. (Previously Amended) A processor-readable**
2 **medium for alerting a calling party of a delay before an**
3 **incoming call will be answered by a user of a called**
4 **telecommunication terminal, comprising processor-executable**
5 **instructions configured for:**

6 **receiving a time specifying the delay from the user**
7 **after the incoming call is received;**
8 **transmitting a message including the time to a**
9 **wireless switching system in response to the incoming call by**
10 **the telecommunication terminal in response to an input from the**
11 **user when the telecommunication terminal is not engaged in**
12 **another call;**

13 **inserting the time into a predefined message that is**
14 **selected by the user to the calling party by the wireless**
15 **switching system;**

16 **transmitting by the wireless switching system the**
17 **predefined message to the calling party; and**

18 **placing the incoming call on hold by the wireless**
19 **switching system.**

1 **46. (Original) The processor-readable medium of**
2 **claim 45 further comprises taking the incoming call off of hold**

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3 and establishing audio communication between the user and
4 calling party in response to another input from the user.

1 47. (Previously Amended) A processor-readable
2 medium for alerting a calling party of a delay before an
3 incoming call will be answered by a user of a called
4 telecommunication terminal, comprising processor-executable
5 instructions configured for:

6 transmitting a message to a wireless switching system
7 in response to the incoming call by the telecommunication
8 terminal in response to an input from the user when the
9 telecommunication terminal is not engaged in another call;

10 transmitting by the wireless switching system a
11 message to the calling party;

12 placing the incoming call on hold by the wireless
13 switching system; and

14 terminating the incoming call after transmission of the
15 message.

1 48. (Original) The processor-readable medium of
2 claim 45 wherein the message is an audio message and the
3 audio message is transmitted via a voice messaging system.

1 49. (Canceled)

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1 50. (Previously Amended) The processor-readable
2 medium of claim 45 wherein the inserting comprises converting
3 the time to audio information for insertion into the predefined
4 message.

1 51. (Original) The processor-readable medium of
2 claim 50 further comprises recording the predefined message
3 by the user.

1 52. (Original) The processor-readable medium of
2 claim 45 wherein the message is a text message.

1 53. (Canceled)

1 54. (Original) The processor-readable medium of
2 claim 52 wherein the transmission of the text message is via a
3 text messaging link.

1 55. (Previously Amended) The processor-readable
2 medium of claim 52 further comprises entering the predefined
3 message.

1 56. (Original) An apparatus for alerting a calling party
2 of a delay before an incoming call will be answered by a
3 communication terminal, comprising:

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4 means for detecting the incoming call while the
5 communication terminal is not engaged in another call;
6 means for detecting movement of the communication
7 terminal; and
8 means for transmitting a message to the calling party
9 upon detection of the incoming call and movement.

1 57. (Original) The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the
2 means for transmitting comprises means for sending a textual
3 message.

1 58. (Original) The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the
2 means for transmitting comprises means for sending a textual
3 message.

1 59. (Original) An apparatus for implementing the
2 steps of claim 1.

1 60. (Original) An apparatus for implementing the
2 steps of claim 12.

1 61. (Previously Added) The method of claim 3
2 wherein the message is a predefined message and the method
3 further comprises the steps of receiving a time specifying the
4 delay before user returns the incoming call from the user after
5 the incoming call is received; and

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6 inserting the time into a predefined message.

1 62. (Previously Added) The method of claim 25
2 wherein the message is a predefined message and the method
3 further comprises the steps of receiving a time specifying the
4 delay before user returns the incoming call from the user after
5 the incoming call is received; and

6 inserting the time into a predefined message.

1 63. (Previously Added) The processor-readable
2 medium claim 47 wherein the message is a predefined
3 message and the method further comprises the steps of
4 receiving a time specifying the delay before user returns the
5 incoming call from the user after the incoming call is received;
6 and

7 inserting the time into a predefined message.